

He disengaged himself from Ralph's arms, seized his hand and tried to assist him. The crocodile had turned by this time toward the two, for another attack. But they were now within a yard of the cutter, and though suffering excruciating pain, the young officer caught up his brother's light form and tossed him into the boat. The crocodile was close to Ralph, but he contrived to escape it with a forward movement and to roll himself across the gunwale of the cutter. He went over on his back, with his head on the edge of the bow. While he was trying to turn and right himself, which his sprain would hinder his doing quickly, the hideous open jaws of the monster appeared over the bow. They were very near the head of the prostrate youth. He would not be able to move it in time to elude those horrible fangs. But at this critical moment his young brother, who had noticed that the crocodile's jaws were on a line with the swivel, sprang forward with ready decision and discharged the piece.

Never was a shot more effective. It plowed its way nearly through the full length of the huge reptile's body, killing the animal almost instantly. Ralph praised his brother for the quick judgment and swift action which had thus been the means of saving him from a terrible fate.

In fact, the presence of mind and promptitude shown by the little fellow on this occasion won the admiration and applause of all the seamen aboard the ship, when, in time, it was made known to them.

Not long after the gun had been fired, the rising of the tide floated the cutter clear of the sandbank, enabling Ralph, with Frank's assistance, to get back to the landing-place fronting the hut, where some of the sailors who had returned from their vain search for the lad joyfully hailed his appearance. Frank's explanations about the canoe, as well as of his situation on the rock, verified his brother's previous conjectures on the subject. The boy had gone to the canoe to convey it to the cutter, had been pursued by the crocodile, and by vigorous paddling had reached the water cavern. So close to him then was the reptile that, as he sprang out of the canoe to climb the tree, the jaws of the monster closed over the frail vessel, partly crushing it. Bottom up, and with Frank's cap, which had fallen from his head, caught on the broken wood, the little craft had drifted off with the current, to be afterward found by Ralph as described.—Rufus Hall, in N. Y. Ledger.

Some Names Not Allowable.

A workman of Dresden lately proposed to register his new-born child as Robespierre Danton. The registrar declined to put down so revolutionary a name, and the father refused to register the child at all, except by number. The matter was taken before the courts, the workman was fined, and the decision given that in monarchical states such names are not allowable.

EVEN WITH THE COMPANY.

"Bluff" from a New Englander That Rubbed Out an Old Score.

The game of "bluff" in honest hands is seldom a winning one, yet an honest young man evened up a loss one day last week through the first bit of "bluff" he had ever tried in his life.

He hailed from New England and ignorant of New York railroads was making a trip to Mamaroneck on the New York, New England and Hartford line. Promised by the conductor that he should be warned when nearing the station, he realized nothing until he had reached Stamford, when the forgetful official turned up to inform him regretfully that he was a dozen miles beyond his destination.

"And shall I have to pay my fare back?" he inquired.

"Don't exactly see how you could get back any other way," was the reply.

With a sense of unjust treatment, the young man purchased a ticket and rode back in the next train.

He made the same trip again two days later. This time he knew just where his station was but falling into a sound sleep he let himself be carried past it until by a strange coincidence he found himself again at Stamford. With an air of injured independence he boarded the next train back.

"See here, conductor," addressing that functionary. "I've been carried through the stupidity of another of your blooming conductors twelve miles out of my way, and if you suppose I'm going to pay you for taking me back again you're pretty far out. You may call for any fare you please. I will not pay it. There's a lot more than that due me for my inconvenience."

"All right, sir," answered the conductor meekly, completely overawed by the apparent depth of resentment confronting him.

"I'm even with that company, murmured the provincial youth blandly when he stepped off the train.

HAD TO HAVE HIS PIPE.

The Rich Chicago Contractor and His Humble Guest.

In one of the fashionable quarters of Chicago, according to the Times, lives an Irishman who has made a fortune as a contractor. He has never forgotten the friends of his youth, especially one Casey, a boss mason, who still lives in the Goose Island district. Casey does not feel exactly at home in the big house, but out of regard for his old friend often spends an evening there with him. On a recent occasion of this sort, a heavy rain set in just as it came time for the visitor to take his leave. "Look here, Mike," said the contractor, as they reached the door, "there's no need of your goin' home in this flood. I have a spare room upstairs. Stay over night wid me." "All right, Tim," replied Casey; "O' will. The ould woman won't worry." The contractor summoned a servant and had Casey shown to the "spare room." Then he returned to his den to look over the plans of a new block he had on hand. The work-

kept him absorbed till nearly midnight, when he was startled by a sharp ring at the door-bell. Every one else had retired, and he answered the bell in person. When he opened the front-door, there stood Casey, dripping wet, with a smile on his face. "How's this, Mike?" exclaimed the contractor; "I thought ye was to stay all night here." "So I am, me boy," replied the smiling Casey; "that's why I went home for me pipe."

GAME OF THE DEVIL.

It Hails from China and Used to Be Played in Europe.

What is called the "Game of the Devil" dates back in China, where it is called Kouen-gen, to a very remote antiquity, and has been much played in France at different epochs of modern times, especially at the beginning of the present century.

The "devil" is thrown into the air by means of a string which the player keeps taut by the skillful use of two sticks, and upon which he is to catch it. "I remember having often seen this game in the hands of one of my friends," says a contributor to a French periodical. "According to him, the game was in great favor in Belgium in his boyhood, about fifteen years ago, especially at colleges, where the young men often got up genuine matches between two and even three players. The form of the devil varies a little from that of the 'Kouen-gen.' It is made of two tin cones connected by their apices, and provided with apertures for the production of a humming sound when the devil revolves very fast. A good strong player can easily throw it to a height of more than forty feet."

Something less than a quarter of a century ago this game was much played at Paris. The devil was made of two hollow boxwood balls.

A CASE OF TRANSFUSION.

Curious Suit Recently Brought in an English Court.

The legal possibilities of transfusion were brought out in a recent suit in an English court. A man, says the New York Ledger, who was very ill was treated by transfusion of blood as a last resort. He recovered, and after a time his gardener, from whose veins the vital fluid was taken, fell ill. Some one suggested that his contribution to his employer might have caused his illness, whereupon he brought suit, claiming sixty thousand francs' damages. After a good deal of legal investigation experts were appointed to examine and report on the case. This took so long that the man died before the report was finished. The widow, however, continued the suit, even though the post-mortem examination demonstrated that death was caused by cancer of the stomach. The courts decided in favor of the defendant, on the ground that even though the man's vitality might have been impaired by the loss of blood, his voluntary offer for the benefit of another individual released the recipient from all financial liability that might be claimed on account of the transaction.